HOW TO LIVE HAPPILY.

Intro. Spend August in the Sermon on the Mount. Not an interpretation of it so much as a practical application of it.

Subject not as announced in the ad, but, "How to live happily".

Jesus delivered his words to the multitudes. The sea of faces before him, made up of all kinds, revealed to the Master what they all were in search of but didn't have-happiness. They all wanted to be happy but none had found the secret for they were looking in the wrong place for it.

Jesus begins his address with the word "happy". He uses the word to point out to them who the really happy are. It is the same word as used in the Fourth Gospel-BIf ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them". By telling the multitude who the happy ones are Jesus discloses the hiding place of happiness so that any one may go and find it.

I. The Happy Ones according to Jesus.

1. Happy are the poor in spirit, are they at hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Not poor-spirited ones, the crawling ones with no pep. God has no more use for a poor-spirited Xn than man has for a poor-spirited horse.

The poor in spirit, those who are conscious of their spiritual needs. Those who, feeling their lack, seek forgiveness, cleansing, renewal of their spiritual strength. They hunger and thirst after righteousness as all normal healthy persons hunger for food and thirst for drink every day at least three times. They have a gnawing appetite for righteousness which is proof of a sound healthy state of soul, kept in good condition thru exercise.

The hungry tramp who ate such a big breakfast, and then how he worked! The working Xns are the ones who hunger and thirst the most. They can digest a heaping plate full of solid spiritual meat and potatoes. The Xn dispeptics who crave the sweets and shun the real nourishing food for the soul.

2.Happy are they that mourn. What a contradiction! But hold. Jesus usually means more than he says literally. Happy are they who have enough sympathy and love in them to make them grieve when occasions for it arise. Real sons and daughters notice that their mothers and fathers are growing old. They see the eyes grow dim, the step falter, the breath come more feebly and less easily and it grieves them. And when the old folk pass away these loving sons and daughters mourn.

The picture of the South Sea Islanders burying alive their aged ones, and without any sense of grief! The many who hide th mselves behind their wealth or wrap themselves up in their callous hearts and never have the ghost of a feeling for the poor and miserable and suffering ones. Happy are they who can and do mourn with a sympathyzing love.

3.Happy are the gentle. To the multitude that listened this seemed a contradiction to the facts, for was not the world ruled by the cruel, fighting monarchs who ruled over them with teribbb armies and crushing laws? Did not might make right in their worH

Jesus did not say that the gentle would enter into immediate possession of the earth. He said that they would inherit the earth. Before you inherit somebody has to die. Jesus spoke of a process going on in obedience to a higher law than any man could make arbitrarily, a law as irresistable and inevitable in its working as any of the laws of nature.

We see it woking in the animal world. Marian's book of prehistoric animals- the monster mastodons and saurians etc. They are all gone. And the fierce, blood-thirsty animals such as tigers, lions, wolves are all but wiped out. Only the gentler animals such as sheep and cattle are on the increase.

The same is true with regard to the races of men. The man-killing savages are about gone. The gentler rqces are constantly winning out against the more cruel and savage ones. In the recent war the gentler nations crushed the national monarch who whuld rule the world with force. Yes, happy are the gentle men and the gentle women for they are inheriting the earth today.

4.Happy are the merdiful. Mercy is helpful compassion. The compassion of the Savior. Why did the multitudes follow aftee him? Why did the sick come to him? Why did the distressed seek him out?

Was it not for the same reason that we hold the doctor and the nurse in such high esteem? If for no other reason than that of merciful compassion the church should ever swing its doors wide open for the relief of all who are sick distressed or in trouble. In his Last Judgment the Master describes the ones standing on the right hand of God as those who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, ministered to the sick and visited the imprisoned.

Like attracts like. Happy are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.

5.Happy are the peace makers! Jesus never said,"Happy are those who never fight." The good shepherd layeth down his life for the sheep. He will fight the wolf every time. The real peace makers are they who will fight for law and order if necessary; are they

who try to settle differences on the basis of justice and equity so there will be peace ever after.

Those whose personal influence is disrupting and those whose influence is pacifying. Blessed are the peace makers for they shall be called the children of God. God, then, is a peace maker. He is ever changing his universe, yet always maintaining it under law and order. And we must ever change- we must grow and make progress- but we can do so without the shedding of blood, without bloody warfare if we will but imitate God.

6.Happy are the pure in heart! Happy are those whose hearts are free from lust, greed, hatred, envy and malice. They alone see God, not as a reward for their purity but as a result of it. Take all the impurity out of your heart and mind and you will behold God in the glory and majesty of His perfect purity and holiness. Happy are the pure in heart for they do see God here, now, anywhere, everywhere.

Con. We have considered the words of Jesus sufficiently to see the road that is being traveled by the happy ones. Those who long to be and try to be better than they are, ever hungry for and feeding on the righteousness of God; who can and do rejoice with them that rejoice and weep with them that weep, in loving sympathy; who are gentle in spirit; who perform acts of mercy for those in need because of their thotful compassion; who make peace of the right kind and in the right way under all circumstances; and whose harts are free from lust, greed, envy, hatred, malice and all other evil, being filled, instedd, with love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, patience, fidelity and self-control; all such are the real happy ones of the earth.

Would you be as happy as they? Then you must travel the road for yourselves. It is'nt enough to know about the road, to map it out and possess guidd directions. I can map out a road leading to all the National Parks in the country, but if I would see the parks I must travel the road. If you would experience the happiness of Jesus, travel the Christ road.

Let us observe these travelers on the Happy Road again and we note that they are not seeking happiness; they are not trying to find happiness in order to possess it and hold on to it like some people go after money; these travelers are simply living their lives according to their better and higher selves in all the fulness and richness of harmony with God and of helpfulness to their fellow man, glad indeed to lose their lives just so that others find theirs. Jesus said further of them that they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. And if you will stop and think a moment, you will realize and appreciate the truth of the Christ statement. These verily preserve society from corruption and light the way for mankind out of all darkness.

How have the great men of God laid hold on the vital elements of life and how simply they have stated them to us!

Micah: He hath showee thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God?"

James: Pure religion and undefiled is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep onesself unspotted from the world."

John: Little children, love ye one another!"

Paul: The fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against these there is no law.

Jesus: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and thy neighbor as thyself."